

ABSTRACT

A switching fabric for transmitting digital data from a plurality of sources to a plurality of destinations is described. The switching fabric includes a plurality of input ports, a plurality of output ports and a plurality of switching sections. Each of the input ports receives data frames and partitions the received data payload of at least some of the frames into a plurality of associated data cells. Each of the output ports are coupled to at least one destination associated with the headers of the data frames. Each of the switching sections may be coupled to each of the input ports and each of the output ports for transmitting each of selected ones of the data cells from the at least one input port to one or more of the coupled output ports.